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# Moshannon Group News

Moshannon Group of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club

February 2002

February General Meeting:

## The Last Great Wilderness Project —A Multimedia Slideshow Presentation

*by the Alaska Wilderness League*

Since 1987 nature photographer Lenny Kohm has been tirelessly traveling the country with his slides and stories of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In an effort to bring the grandeur of the Arctic Refuge to the American people, Kohm wove his spectacular photographs of the flora and fauna of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain together with his experiences with the native Gwich'in people to create "The Last Great Wilderness Project" multi-media slide show.

Kohm gave film maker Jeff Barrie his first glimpse of the Arctic Refuge during a slide show in 1995. A year later Barrie traveled to Alaska with his video camera to record life in Gwich'in villages, the oil fields of Prudhoe Bay and the wilderness of the Arctic Refuge. His documentary "Arctic Quest: Our Search for Truth" has been broadcast on PBS stations nationwide. Both men have traveled the country to advocate for protec-

tion of the Arctic Refuge; Kohm has presented over 1700 programs over the course of 14 years, and Barrie gained publicity by riding a bicycle across the country as an advocate for this issue. Now Barrie will take over Kohm's place spreading the important message that the Arctic Refuge is too wild to waste.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is made up of more than 19 million acres of pristine mountains, forest, tundra, and coastal plain and is regarded by many as America's last great wilderness. The Refuge provides habitat for wolves, grizzly bears, polar bears, arctic fox, moose, musk oxen, and more than 140 species of birds. The 129,000-member Porcupine Caribou herd migrates annually to the Arctic Refuge. They come to give birth and nurture their young on the 1.5 million acre coastal plain. This essential habitat also provides

*(Continued on page 4)*

### February General Meeting:

The Moshannon Group and the Clearwater Conservancy are pleased to host Jeff Barrie and a member of the Gwich'in Indian tribe from the Alaska Wilderness League with their multimedia presentation **The Last Great Wilderness Project**. They make a case for protecting the Arctic Wildlife Refuge by presenting a vision of what will be lost if this area is given up for a n amount of oil that our nation would consume in six months. See the article on page 1. All are welcome!



### March General Meeting:

Local author Chuck Fergus will speak about the Natural Areas of the State Forest system. He will present some slides of these areas. Chuck will be bringing copies of some of his nature - and wildlands - related titles to sell and to autograph, as well as copies of his latest book: **Natural Pennsylvania: Exploring the State Forest Natural Areas**. Read a review of and excerpts from this book on page 3.



Chuck in Lower Jerry Run

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### GENERAL MEETINGS

Tuesday, **February 19**, 7PM: Unitarian Church at 780 Waupalani Extension. Guest Speaker: Jeff Barrie and a member of the Gwich'in tribe will present "The Last Great Wilderness Project" a multimedia presentation. See the article on page 1.

Tuesday, **March 19**, 7PM: the Centre Furnace Mansion and Centre County Historical Society at Porter Road and East College Ave. Guest Speaker: local author Chuck Fergus will speak about, and show slides of, the Pennsylvania State Forest Natural Areas.

### OUTINGS

Sunday, **February 17**: Cross country skiing on trails along the Allegheny Front 30 minutes from State College. Beginners encouraged and welcome. Contact: Gary Thornbloom 353-3466 or [bearknob@msn.com](mailto:bearknob@msn.com).

Sunday, **February 24**: Cross country skiing in Hamersley Wild Area. Long, moderate to difficult day of skiing at least 10 miles. Some bushwhacking and/or ice crossing may be required. Contact Dave Coleman: 234-0839 or [dyatesc@aol.com](mailto:dyatesc@aol.com).

Sunday, **March 17**: Cross country skiing in the Quehanna Wild Area or in Black Moshannon State Park, depending on snow cover. Contact Dave Coleman: 234-0839 or [dyatesc@aol.com](mailto:dyatesc@aol.com).

Sunday, **April 14**: Hike in the Detweiler Run Natural Area Contact Gary Thornbloom: 353-3466 or [bearknob@msn.com](mailto:bearknob@msn.com).

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From The Editor

Gary Thornbloom

Common cause between the hunting and conservation communities goes way back. I would like to pose several points:

- In the earliest days of the conservation movement persons and organizations with a bullet and hook background often played important roles in advancing the cause of conservation. This would include names such as Theodore Roosevelt, George Grinnell, and John Burroughs, and organizations such as the Izaak Walton League. Many conservationists such as Sigurd Olson, Justice Douglas, and Ed Abbey began with an interest in hunting or fishing. Many moved beyond their early hunting experiences, but others such as Aldo Leopold maintained an interest in hunting. And then there is John Muir:

*Muir disapproved of hunting...But he tolerated fishing because it took its disciples into the wilderness and opened their senses. "Catching trout with a bit of bent wire is a rather trivial business," he said, "but fortunately people fish better than they know. In most cases it is the man who is caught."*

—**The American Conservation Movement** by Stephen Fox

Today there are 50 million hunters and 100 million fishermen in North America, and that is quite a few persons to be caught.

- Hunting related entities such as the Pennsylvania Game Commission continue to play a major role in the purchase and management of public lands. State Game Lands are purchased by fees collected from hunters. These lands provide habitat. PGC policies have impacted the wildlife that is in our forests: consider the elk, bobcat, turkey, deer and otter as success stories. There was a time when these animals were rare in Penn's Woods.
- In many indigenous cultures hunting remains an integral part of daily life. These people never moved culturally away from the sacred hunt of our Pleistocene past. These cultures provide a glimpse as to who we were before we embraced an agrarian and urban existence. These people are more connected to the land than most of us ever will be, and it is hunting that to a large degree connects them. What can we learn from them and more specifically from their relationship with the land?
- Paul Shepard provides a fascinating look at our distant past in books of his such as **The Other** and **Coming Home to the Pleistocene**. Shepard argues persuasively that while we have in many ways distanced ourselves from our hunter/gatherer past we have done this at a high price.
- Why have many of the hunters that I have known and read been among the strongest advocates of wilderness and conservation issues? Why have these same hunters been the most knowledgeable about what is out there—about the wildness in wilderness?
- Do we all need to become hunters? No, but I think there is a place at the conservation table for hunters.

## Off The Chair

Dave Coleman

Think Globally, Act Locally: the hymn of the 20th -and now the 21<sup>st</sup>- Century activist. The Sierra Club operates within that framework. In Central Pennsylvania, Sierra Club members think big, and take small steps at home. For example, protection of forests is an issue most conservationists have at the top of their list. We believe that deforestation is an unsound land use practice from the Northern Coniferous Forest (Boreal Forest) of Canada and Alaska to the Rain Forest of Central and South Americas. We belong to organizations that educate, lobby, and promote conservation for forests – not just here in our part of North America—but worldwide. On a local level the Moshannon Group is promoting the conservation and preservation of our state forestlands. We have been doing this through our involvement in the state forest planning process, communication with the Bureau of Forestry, and outings in our state forests. Individually, we play a relatively small but important role in global forest issues. As residents of Pennsylvania, we can have a much larger impact on topics closer to home.

Another example: locally, we can practice energy conservation in our homes and businesses. We can drive less, drive more efficiently, and own fuel-efficient vehicles – all without lowering our “quality of life”. Thinking globally on the energy issue can include many different categories of sub-issues but today it usually includes the debate over the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The Sierra Club’s position— as well as that of all conservation organizations and the majority of Americans— is that this last untouched part of the Coastal Plain should not be disturbed for such a small amount of oil. Some Club members have been able, and willing, to make the trip to the wildlife refuge to see it directly, but this is not possible for all of us. How about if we bring a glimpse of ANWR to State College for you to see and save you the airfare? Our February 19<sup>th</sup> General Meeting features Alaskan members of the Alaska Wilderness League who will do just that. This will be a great opportunity for residents of Central Pennsylvania to learn about this issue through the eyes of those who live there. For them, the thinking “globally” is the same as their acting “locally”. “Think Globally, Act Locally”. It’s hard to do either, if you don’t get off the chair.

### Events Calendar (Continued from page 1)

Friday-Sunday, **May 17-19**: Two night canoe trip on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River with a day hike in a PA Wild Area. Contact Dave Coleman: 234-0839 or [dyatesc@aol.com](mailto:dyatesc@aol.com).

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

These meetings are held on the **first Tuesday** of the month and they are open to all members. Call an Executive Committee Member for the next meeting location.

# Natural Pennsylvania: Exploring the State Forest Natural Areas

—Local Author Chuck Fergus

by Gary Thornbloom

Chuck Fergus has added another book to those he has already written about nature. His most recent book **Natural Pennsylvania: Exploring the State Forest Natural Areas** takes the reader on a tour of the sixty-one Natural Areas in our state forest system. During his research for this book Chuck had the enviable task of visiting each of these areas. He did this by hiking, canoeing, camping, birding, snowshoeing or horseback riding in each of the areas. He visited these areas in the company of a wide variety of persons: one of the architects of the natural area system, with bird and forest experts, with members of his family, and with friends. On other visits he was alone. His book is dedicated to his son Will: *For Will, my good helper who kept me from walking too fast and missing the frogs.*

The variety of the Natural Areas is indicative of the wealth that we in Pennsylvania have in our state forest system. From the introduction of **Natural Pennsylvania:**

*Centuries-old hemlocks, whose trunks grow thick and straight, red-brown pillars sidelit by*

Chuck Fergus's other nature-and wild-lands-related titles:

**Wildlife of Pennsylvania**, a reference book covering all the mammals, birds, and reptiles and amphibians in the state.

**Thornapples: The Comings, Goings, and Outdoor Doings of a Naturalist**, Pennsylvania nature and country living.

**Summer at Little Lava: A Season on the Edge of the World**, a book about nature in Iceland.

**Swamp Screamer: At Large with the Florida Panther**, concerning the endangered Florida panther, the only mountain lion species east of the Mississippi River.

*the dawn.*

*A chain of ponds: the remains of ice hills that rose when glaciers lay on the land, when musk oxen roamed a windswept tundra where today an oak forest dominates.*

*A canyon with waterfalls tumbling down its rocky slopes, groves of red pine, and nesting bald eagles.*

*A creeping shrub thought to be twelve hundred years old.*

*Bogs with plants that trap and eat insects.*

*A pure stand of paper birch.*

*Islands that echo with the squawks of nesting egrets, a gap cut by a stream through a sandstone mountain, a pocket of pin oaks near a bustling city.*

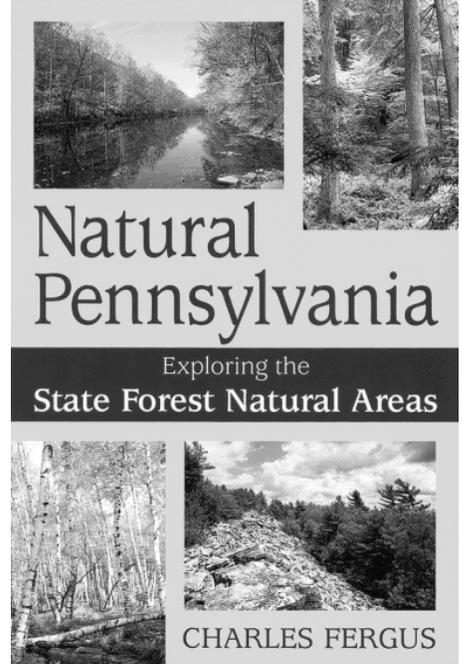
*Otters and warblers and salamanders and dragonflies. Plants ranging from tiny spring beauties to towering pines that make you stop and listen to the breeze murmuring a hundred feet above your head.*

Pennsylvania began setting aside these areas at the beginning of the last century. These areas are jewels that have preserved old growth, examples of Pennsylvania's forest types, bogs, habitat of unusual plants and animals, striking geological features—and these are all places that each of us can hike or canoe in. These areas have a degree of protection from human impacts.

As he visited these areas Chuck came to this realization:

*It also felt good knowing that these green places will be protected forever; that the trees will mature; that many years after we are gone, old-growth forests will stand in all their diversity and complexity, rare plants will blossom and scatter seeds, animals will succeed in their generations—and that these habitats and life forms will remain present for our descendants who are willing to seek out, observe, and contemplate.*

A standard of Chuck's writing is solid research which then allows for an informed observation that results in an attention to detail. Each chapter of the book



is devoted to one of the Natural Areas. The format lends itself to browsing through the book with each reader being drawn in to the areas that catch their attention. The fifty black and white photos of these areas are another way of directing the attentive browser. At the end of each chapter is directions to get to the Natural Area. There are also tips on what maps you will need as well as tips that will guide you to a unique experience of each area.

Chuck Fergus has written another book that can help each of us to explore and enjoy our home state, Pennsylvania. With this book we can develop a deeper appreciation of and a willingness to fight to protect our public lands in Pennsylvania.

Come to hear Chuck speak about the Natural Areas of our state forest system at our March General Meeting. Chuck will also be bringing copies of his books to sell and autograph.

## Moshannon Group Election Results

Members of the Moshannon Group cast their ballots in December. The results were tallied at the January Ex-Com meeting and Dave Coleman, Jason Saltman, and Gary Thorn-

bloom were elected to two year terms on the Executive Committee. All the current members of the Executive Committee are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

**ECO-TIPS:** Button Up Your House. Sealing cracks, installing energy efficient windows and adding weather stripping and insulation greatly improves home heating and cooling—the average persons largest use of energy.

Kid's Stuff:  
**ARCTIC QUIZ**

## National Club Election Coming This Spring

1. What state does the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge compare to in size?
  - a. Wisconsin
  - b. South Carolina
  - c. California
2. What native Alaska group is dependent upon the caribou?
  - a. Inupiat
  - b. Ekwok
  - c. Gwich'in
3. How far do the caribou travel from their winter home to get to the coastal plain?
  - a. 30 miles
  - b. 400 miles
  - c. 20,000miles
4. Can you think of both an insect and a bird species that are migratory?
5. What makes a species migratory?
6. What is the name of the area in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that is very important for caribou calving?
7. About how many different species of wildlife exist in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?
8. How long have the caribou been making their yearly migration to the coastal plain?

*Answers are on page 6, near your address label!*

### The Last Great Wilderness Project

*(Continued from page 1)*

nesting and staging grounds for migratory birds seen in 49 states throughout the country, including waterfowl such as Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, and Loons. The coastal plain is the biological heart of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the center of wildlife activity.

The Gwich'in people depend on the Porcupine caribou herd for subsistence as well as tradition and lifestyle. The Gwich'in have lived in harmony with the land, wildlife and harsh environment of the arctic region for over 20,000 years. Caribou and other wild game make up 80 percent of their diet. The Gwich'in are the "caribou people" and refer to the coastal plain as the "sacred place where life begins."

Ninety-five percent of the United States' arctic coastline is open to oil and gas development. The 100-mile stretch of arctic coastal plain in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the last five percent of Alaska's North Slope still off-limits to oil exploration. Now, big oil companies are pushing for access to this fragile landscape. The oil industry and their political allies are pushing their agenda despite the objections of 500 leading American scientists, the Gwich'in people, and the majority of Americans who are in favor of protecting the Arctic Refuge.

The US Geological Survey estimates that drilling would yield only 6 months worth of oil from beneath the coastal plain. The majority of Americans believe that the value of a 20,000-year-old native culture and birthing grounds for 129,000 caribou is far greater than 6 months worth of a

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, you will receive in the mail your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates for the Board of Directors.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels that requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the staff to run the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website - <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2002election> - which this year will include candidate responses to questions posted by various Club entities.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate, make your choices, and then cast your votes. You will find our ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. You can even cast your vote electronically!

polluting, non-renewable resource. "It is puzzling that people and the government would be willing to sacrifice a renewable resource, such as the herd, and the lives of the Gwich'in Indian people, who depend upon it, for merely the possibility of the short term benefits we could gain by extracting a small amount of petroleum, a non-renewable resource" says Barrie.

Protecting the Arctic Refuge is so important to the Gwich'in that they leave their native home and travel with Kohm, bringing their story to thousands of people each year. As a result, "Last Great Wilderness Project" is imbued with the urgency of the Gwich'in people as well as the passion of two men who have dedicated their lives to protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

# Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition

MCWC has met monthly since Fall 2001. This is their vision statement:

*It is the vision of the Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition to restore the Moshannon Creek Watershed by correcting the harmful effects associated with mining related impacts as well as pollution sources that impair Moshannon Creek.*

*It is the vision of the Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition to protect watershed resources, restore streams to sustainable fisheries, and create habitat for diversified animal and plant communities.*

*It is the vision of the Moshannon Creek Watershed Coalition to create and maintain open spaces and greenways in the watershed.*

This is their mission statement:

*The mission of the MCWC is to improve and maintain the social, recreational, economic, and ecological quality of the Moshannon creek Watershed for future generations.*

We will:

- Reclaim abandoned mined lands
- Treat and/or eliminate mine drainage
- Address other identified water quality and watershed issues
- Protect and enhance open space and natural areas
- Promote public awareness through public outreach and education
- Promote partnerships with community groups, with industry, and with organizations who share our vision.

If you share this vision and can help with this mission then you should attend the next meeting at the Rush Township Building on February 26 at 7PM.

There is a role for many skills, interests, and hands. All are welcome to attend the next meeting. For more information contact :

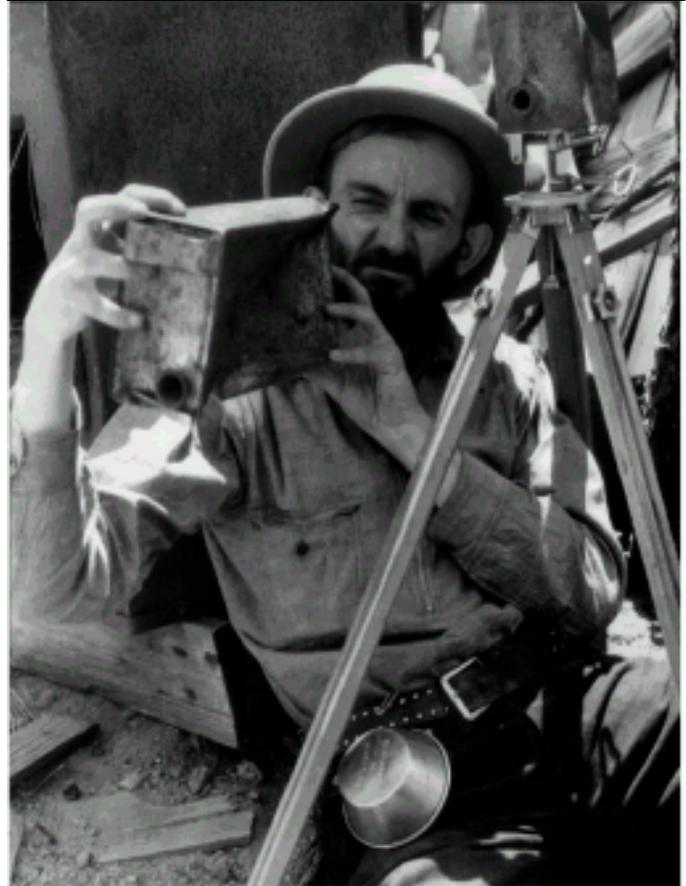
Ann Donovan  
Watershed Specialist  
Centre Co. Conservation Dist.  
414 Holmes Avenue  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
(814) 355-6817

Donna Carnahan  
Watershed Specialist  
Clearfield Co. Conservation Dist.  
650 Leonard Street  
Clearfield, PA 16830  
(814)765-8130

**ECO-TIPS:** Still drinking milk? Tired of using and paying extra for those plastic jugs or plastic coated cardboard milk containers? Tell you what my friends: there's a dairy in State College Pa (Meyer Dairy on South Atherton) that still uses returnable glass bottles. See for yourself and save money!

Know of any other stores that sell returnables: let us know and we will list them in future ECO-TIPS.  
—submitted by Joe Banks, State College.

## Ansel Adams



© Gaelic Wright

**He didn't just photograph the wilderness.  
He fought for it.**

## Do You Have Ideas Or Suggestions For Moshannon Newsletter Articles?

All members of the Moshannon Group are welcome to submit articles for this Newsletter. If you are familiar with an issue in the area of the Moshannon Group membership let us know. You are welcome to write an article about it, or you are welcome to provide information that those of us who work on the Newsletter will use to write the article.

We are all volunteers and cannot be expected to be familiar with every issue throughout the area of our membership.

You are also welcome, and encouraged, to volunteer to lead an outing to an area that you feel is special or threatened.

The Moshannon Group is only as vigorous as the level of involvement by its members.

Contact any member of the Executive Committee, or what is even better—show up at the next General Meeting!

Moshannon Group of the  
 Pennsylvania Chapter of the  
 Sierra Club  
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*We're on the web!*  
[http://  
 pennsylvania.sierraclub.org  
 /moshannon/](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/)

**BOOKS**

**The Seal Oil Lamp**-ages 5-9  
 By Dale De Armond

**Arctic Memories**-ages 9-11  
 By Normee Ekoomiak

**Julie of the Wolves**-ages 9-12  
 By Jean Craighead George



Answers to the Arctic Quiz: 1.b 2.c 3.b 4.monarch  
 butterflies, sand hill cranes, loons, geese 5.they move  
 their home when the seasons change 6.the coastal plain  
 7. 261 species 8. 20,000 years.

**Moshannon Group Directory**

\*members of the Executive Committee

Chair & Conservation	*Dave Coleman	234-0839	dyatesc@aol.com
Vice Chair & Program Director	*Jason Saltman	234-3824	JTS166@aol.com
Treasurer	*Joe Banks	234-4266 M-F mornings	
Secretary	*Judy Tanner	542-8519	billtann@penn.com
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Newsletter Edi- tor, Outings	*Gary Thornbloom	353-3466	bearknob@msn.com
Ex-Com Member	*Hilary Vida	371-3277	
Intern	Available position.		

**Membership**

**Yes**, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club  
 Mastercard  Visa Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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**Sierra Club**  
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